

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1172

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

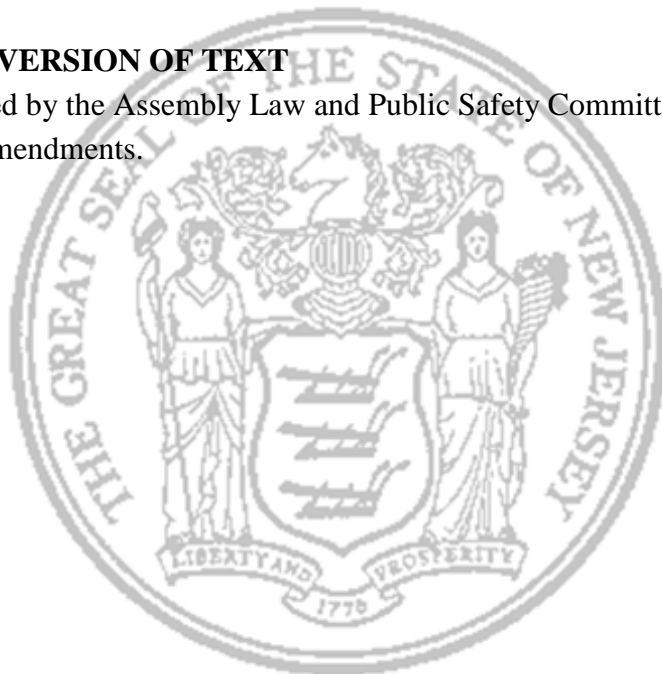
Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman McKeon, Assemblywoman Mosquera, Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywomen Murphy, Carter, Assemblyman Stanley, Assemblywomen Swain, Downey and Lopez

SYNOPSIS

Allows county and municipal police departments to establish designated safe areas for Internet purchase transactions; establishes public awareness campaign.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee on March 8, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement and supplementing Title 40A
2 of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. As used in this section:

8 “Classified advertisement website” means an Internet website
9 that allows individuals to post items for sale or acquisition.

10 “Designated safe area” means an area on municipal police
11 department property that shall be designated by the chief law
12 enforcement officer to be used by members of the public to execute
13 an Internet sales transaction.

14 “Internet sales transaction” means an in-person exchange of an
15 item that was offered for sale or acquisition on a classified
16 advertisement website and in which the parties to the exchange
17 agree to meet at a designated safe area.

18 b. The chief law enforcement officer of each municipal police
19 department may establish a designated safe area which may be used
20 by members of the public to conduct Internet sales transactions.
21 For the purpose of ensuring public safety, the municipal police
22 department may install a video camera capable of recording a clear
23 image of the designated safe area at all times the area is made
24 available to the public.

25 c. A municipal police department or member of the department
26 shall not be responsible for regulating Internet sales transactions
27 conducted in the designated safe areas. A municipal police
28 department or member of the department acting in accordance with
29 official duties shall not be civilly liable for crimes or offenses
30 committed by participants to an Internet sales transaction.

31 ¹d. A municipal police department that establishes a designated
32 safe area pursuant to this section may conduct a public awareness
33 campaign, utilizing the Internet and any other available resources,
34 to inform the public about the designated safe area established on
35 the municipal police department’s property. The public awareness
36 campaign may include, but not be limited to, safety tips to decrease
37 the risk of crime when engaging in Internet sales transactions.¹

38

39 2. a. As used in this section:

40 “Classified advertisement website” means an Internet website
41 that allows individuals to post items for sale or acquisition.

42 “Designated safe area” means an area that the chief law
43 enforcement officer designates on county police department
44 property that shall be used by members of the public to execute an
45 Internet sales transaction.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ALP committee amendments adopted March 8, 2021.

1 “Internet sales transaction” means an in-person exchange of an
2 item that was offered for sale on a classified advertisement website
3 and in which the parties to the exchange agree to meet at a
4 designated safe area.

5 b. The chief law enforcement officer of each county police
6 department may establish a designated safe area which may be used
7 by members of the public to conduct Internet sales transactions.
8 For the purpose of ensuring public safety, the county police
9 department may install a video camera capable of recording a clear
10 image of the designated safe area at all times the area is made
11 available to the public.

12 c. A county police department or member of the department
13 shall not be responsible for regulating Internet sales transactions
14 conducted in the designated safe areas. A county police department
15 or member of the department acting in accordance with official
16 duties shall not be civilly liable for crimes or offenses committed by
17 participants to an Internet sales transaction.

18 ¹d. A county police department that establishes a designated
19 safe area pursuant to this section may conduct a public awareness
20 campaign, utilizing the Internet and any other available resources,
21 to inform the public about the designated safe area established on
22 the county police department’s property. The public awareness
23 campaign may include, but not be limited to, safety tips to decrease
24 the risk of crime when engaging in Internet sales transactions.¹

25

26 3. The ¹【Office of the】¹ Attorney General ¹【in the Department
27 of Law and Public Safety】¹ shall notify the chief law enforcement
28 officer of each municipal and county police department that the
29 department is permitted to establish a designated safe area pursuant
30 to sections 1 and 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
31 the Legislature as this bill).

32 ¹【In addition, the Attorney General shall conduct a public
33 awareness campaign, utilizing the Internet and any other available
34 resources, to inform the general public about the designated safe
35 areas established on police department property throughout the
36 State. The public awareness campaign shall include, but not be
37 limited to, an updated list of police departments that have
38 established designated safe areas and safety tips to decrease the risk
39 of crime when engaging in Internet sales transactions.】¹

40

41 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
42 next following enactment.